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Title: Jaana and the Goblin 2

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Therefore, only a few minutes after her first statement, Jaana was again confronted by a mob, far larger and angrier than the first, and they demanded that the goblin be tried under the King's Justice. Jaana saw that further argument would be both dangerous and fruitless, and furthermore she knew that while more appropriate solutions could be recommended, the King's Justice, once demanded, could not lawfully be refused to the people. So she drew her hood of judgment over her head, and ordered the goblin brought before her, and when he was there she said, "This creature has been rendered up to the law, and its life now rests in the pleasure of Justice. Therefore let no one raise hand against him until lawful judgment is rendered." And she had the goblin moved to a strong room, and set the most sober and severe guards she could find at the door, and the trial was set for the following morning.

The next day the creature was brought before Jaana, and she called the King's Court of

Justice to order. For many hours she sat and listened silently to evidence, as the people of the town recounted the many townspeople slain and plundered at the claws of the goblin and his tribe, and it was a terrible catalog indeed. When the goblin was asked if it wished to testify in its own defense, it only spat in fury, and none of the townspeople chose to speak up for it.

At last Jaana raised her hand in token of binding judgment, and pronounced, "This creature has broken no laws. It pursued a course of warfare against your town after its nature and the custom of its folk. This is not an act that can be condemned under Justice. It must be freed." The people were amazed,

and also greatly angered at these words, and began to shout out condemnation of Jaana's ruling, and to call for the summary execution of the goblin despite the judgment.

But Jaana stood up and threw back her hood, and such was the gravity of her wrath that the crowd fell silent before it. "There will be no lynchings here!" the Druid proclaimed. "I gave you a choice yesterday to put this creature to death lawfully, but you

would have your  
show-trial, and so you  
submitted it to Justice.  
Now it belongs to Justice  
indeed, and if it is in any  
wise harmed in  
contravention of my  
word,  
the full weight of the  
law shall fall upon this  
place. Worse, the  
blessings of Virtue shall  
be forfeited."

Now at this some began  
to call for Jaana's neck  
as well, but other of the  
townsfolk had sobered up  
over the night, and they  
began to see the shape  
of their impiety. So at  
length obedience to law  
and Virtue won out over  
passion, and it was  
agreed that they must  
abide by Jaana's  
judgment. But there was  
great discontent, for it  
was obvious to the  
people  
that the release of the  
goblin king would only  
occasion the renewal of  
the old war, at further  
cost of lives and  
property.

So Jaana had the goblin  
taken in chains to the  
mouth of the pass, and  
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So Jaana had the goblin  
taken in chains to the  
mouth of the pass, and  
The goblin began to lope  
away, and below the  
people cried out in grief.  
But after a few steps it  
stopped, and looked back  
at Jaana with an  
expression of malice on  
its face. And seeing only  
a lone, lightly armed  
young woman, the goblin  
was overcome by its  
hatred for humanity, and  
it attacked Jaana  
viciously. The Druid drew  
her own blade, and there  
she killed the goblin in  
single combat, in lawful  
self-defense, though she  
took a formidable wound  
in the process.

And when she came  
down  
from the high pass, she  
did not speak to any of  
the amazed townspeople,  
and she did not even  
return to town to tend  
her wound, but instead  
strode down the King's  
highway, past the town,  
without a word. And when  
next a Druid came to  
that town to offer  
judgment, it was not  
Jaana.

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Thomas Malory